

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51 43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 AID-10 RSR-01

IO-03 /069 W

----- 118308

R 181146 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1732

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6039

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ( T E X T )

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJECT: IN TAM PROGRAM FOR RALLIERS

1. PRIME MINISTER IN TAM INFORMED ME THIS MORNING THAT THE SUBJECT OF RALLIERS HAD ARISEN AT A HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL MEETING EARLIER TODAY AND THAT HE WISHED TO ASCERTAIN OUR VIEWS CONCERNING A RALLIER PROGRAM WHICH HE WISHES TO INITIATE. AS IN TAM EXPLAINED IT, HE EXPECTS SHORTLY TO BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE RECEPTION OF GROUPS OF RALLIERS, IN ONE CASE 400 STRONG, NORTH OF TAING KOUK ON HIGHWAY 6 AND ALSO ALONG HIGHWAY 5 BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND KOMPONG CHHNANG. HE DID NOT GIVE FULL PARTICULARS BUT SAID THESE RALLIERS WILL ARRIVE WITH ARMS, WILL EXPECT TO BE KEPT INTACT AND EMPLOYED IN FURTHER RALLYING OPERATIONS IN THEIR AREAS, AND WILL OWE A DEGREE OF PERSONAL LOYALTY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE ASKED ME IF WE OBJECTED TO A PROGRAM OF THIS SORT AND IF WE COULD FINANCE IT.

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2. I REPLIED THAT THE MOST PRESSING NEEDS FOR MANPOWER FOR FANK WERE REPLACEMENTS FOR UNDER STRENGTH MOBILE RESERVE UNITS AND THAT WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE RALLIERS USED AS REPLACEMENTS. HOWEVER, IF IT WERE TO PROVE IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT A RALLIER PROGRAM FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE CREATION OF TERRITORIAL UNITS OF RALLIERS UNDER LOCAL FANK COMMANDERS SUBJECT TO THE NORMAL CENTRALIZED PAY AND PERSONNEL SYSTEMS OF THE FANK. AS FOR FINANCING, THESE MILITARY UNITS LIKE ANY OTHERS, WOULD BE A CHARGE TO THE CENTRAL MILITARY BUDGET.

3. IN TAM SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT ONCE SUCCESSFULLY STARTED HIS RALLIER PROGGIM WOULD QUICKLY GAIN MOMENTUM AND RALLIERS MIGHT SOON NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS. I COMMENTED THAT IF THIS WERE THE CASE MANY OF THEM SHOULD BE SHUNTED TO PRODUCTION RATHER THAN TO FURTHER WARFARE BUT THAT THESE QUESTIONS COULD BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS.

4. AS COMPARED WITH MY EARLIER SESSIONS WITH HIM, THIS MEETING WITH IN TAM WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC AND FORWARD LOOKING. HE DID NOT MENTION RESIGNING AND HAD MORE BOUNCE THAN USUAL. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS AS TO WHETHER THESE NEW EFFORTS AT A RALLIER PROGRAM WILL LIVE UP TO IN TAM'S EXPECTATIONS. IF HE SHOULD HAVE SOME SUCCESS, THE CHARGES TO THE BUDGET WILL BE NOMINAL IN RELATION TO THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL RETURNS, AND SO WE WILL DO NOTHING TO DISCOURAGE HIM FROM THIS NEW VENTURE. THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY MONITORED, HOWEVER, TO ASCERTAIN THAT IT IS NOT SIMPLY A VEHICLE FOR PERSONAL POLITICAL AGGRANDIZEMENT.  
SWANK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 18 JUN 1973  
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**Subject:** IN TAM PROGRAM FOR RALLIERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, CB  
**To:** BANGKOK  
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SAIGON  
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